

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q94312

Ken-ichiro HARA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/574,839

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Confirmation No.: 5042

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: April 6, 2006

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING STEEL INGOT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications; and co-pending non-provisional U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after

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filng a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations. Attached is a copy of the following material from the International Bureau concerning PCT/JP2004/006797. There is a copy of the INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY dated April 20, 2006. Applicants had originally prepared a translation of the "last page,...", but, in light of same document dated July 6, 2006 with an official translation (also submitted), Applicants' translation appears to be redundant. If the Examiner would like a copy however, a copy of the translation can be provided.

In addition, Applicants provide "Applicants comments on the official opinion from the International Search Authority...". (total pages 2/5-5/5 in English, the pages 6/7-7/7 in Japanese).

Japanese Patent Nos. JP A-11-293407 and JP-A-2003-183765 are cited in the specification at page 3, line 10 and Japanese Patent Nos. JP 3351766, JP 2879930 and JP 59-37738-B2 are cited in the specification at page 22, line 28.

Complete English translations of foreign language documents are being submitted herewith, and therefore no concise explanation for such foreign language documents is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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